

**COMMUNITIES
AGAINST
SUBSTANCE
ABUSE**

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August 30, 2011

Michael Cunningham
Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs
1700 K Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Re: ADP Transition

Dear Mr. Cunningham:

Communities Against Substance Abuse is a 25-year old community-based prevention organization serving both rural and suburban communities throughout San Diego County. In addition to private foundations, we have had the benefit of receiving funding from all level of the public sector; Federal agency grants (Drug Free Communities Coalition, DFC Mentor, STOP Act, 100 Pioneers for Smoking Cessation), State (DPH's directly funded California Tobacco Control Program) and county funding (SAPT, prevention set-aside and CTCP LLA contracts).

Our organization has evolved and matured over these many years just as the prevention field has evolved and matured. As the field has developed so too has the base of scientific research that now drives the data and strategies used to create population-level changes that result in reducing health disparities for specific populations and entire communities. We know that community-based environmental approaches have demonstrated evidence for improving public health and safety and reducing the social disparities that can increase substance use disorders.

Therefore, it is of great interest to us, and the communities we serve how the proposed elimination of Alcohol and Drug Programs and realignment of existing prevention services will influence the philosophy and direction of prevention over the coming years.

We recommend that the following existing services and core functions of ADP be realigned under the California Department of Public Health:

- The ADP Resource Center
- Consistent Data Collection, at minimum for the current model CalOMS
- State-supported training and technical assistance currently provided by Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS) and Community Prevention Institute (CPI)
- Statewide Youth Leadership Development currently administered by the California Friday Night Live Partnership (FNL)
- Function as the Single State Agency contact for administering the Federal Block Grant (SAPT) and other federal grant monies such as Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant (SPF SIG)

Our rationale to support these recommendations is based, in part, on the mission and core activities of the CDPH which reflect a philosophy grounded in the *health and well-being of the people in California*. Core activities of CDPH align closely with the strategic prevention framework adopted by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), and the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). All of these Federal agencies focus on *population level change*. The CDPH strategies focus on protecting the public from unhealthy and unsafe environments. These strategies are supported by research as being the most effective, resulting in long-term, cost effective outcomes. In addition, CDPH has a well documented history for producing and disseminating data to inform and evaluate population-level public health status, strategies and programs.

As Federal SAPT–prevention set-aside funds flow to the state and through to counties it would seem that the Federal SPF approach should follow. Aligning the federal prevention resources under CDPH would also support the use of this strategic approach. However, the required use of SPF and environmental strategies not end with the state. Federal prevention grants administered by the state should ensure that community-based environmental strategy approaches follow the resources to the local level, while still allowing local program flexibility as recommended by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

We understand that the proposed elimination of ADP is not aimed at major cost savings to the state or that these vital services and core functions are no longer necessary for the public good. Preventing the early initiation of California's youth to tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and other drugs also prevents disease, disability, and premature death and achieves reductions in healthcare costs over time. Thank you for providing an opportunity to hear from the public and from prevention professionals to inform the decision-making as you undertake this difficult transition.

Respectfully,



Mary F. Harrison

CC: Governor Jerry Brown
Senators J. Anderson, B. Emerson, M. Wyland, and C. Kehoe
Assemblymembers D. Harkey, M. Garrick, N. Fletcher, T. Atkins, K. Jefferies, B. Jones,
M. Block and B. Hueso